

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/410,737

Examiner

Colin M. LaRose

Applicant(s)

LE ET AL.

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 29 April 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 10-12, 14-24, 30-35, 37-47, 51, 52, 54-56, 60, 61 and 63-67 renumbered 1-43.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 October 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JINGGE WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

-- **cancel claims 1-9, 25-29, 48-50, 53, 57-59, and 62;**

-- **in claim 66, change "13" to -- 12 --; and**

-- **in the Abstract, delete "Figs. 3, 5A, and 6."**

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 1-9, 25-29, 48-50, 53, 57-59, and 62, which were non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 25-29, 48-50, 53, 57-59, and 62 have been cancelled.

Claim 66 depended from claim 13, which has been cancelled by amendment. Therefore, claim 66 has been amended to depend from claim 12 since claim 13 previously depended from claim 12.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

2. Independent claims 30, 54, and 63 were previously indicated as allowable in Paper #10 mailed 1/28/03 for the following reasons:

“Ikonomakis and Adams are silent to storing a segmented image in a queue, performing the claimed sub-steps until the queue is empty, merging divided rectangular areas as claimed, and outputting vertices as claimed.”

Claims 31-34 are dependent from claim 30 and are allowable for the same reasons.

3. Independent claims 20, 46, 56, and 65 were previously indicated as allowable in Paper #13 mailed 10/17/03 for the following reasons:

“[N]either Ikonomakis nor Adams discloses using, for scanning the list of pixels, a step size that is a function of the length of the list, as claimed.”

Claims 21-24 and 47 are dependent from claims 20 and 46 and are allowable for the same reasons.

4. Independent claims 10, 51, and 60 have been amended to incorporate features of claim 14 that are not taught or suggested by the prior art. That is, neither Ikonomakis nor any of the other cited prior art discloses or suggests scanning the bordering pixels “using a variable step size ... being a function of the quantity of bordering pixels,” as claimed.

Claims 11 is dependent from claim 10 and is allowable for the same reason.

5. Independent claims 12, 52, and 61 have been amended to incorporate features of previous claim 13 that are not taught or suggested by the prior art. That is, neither Ikonomakis nor any of the other cited prior art discloses or suggests, “if a current scanned pixel has a value below a

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minimum threshold, said scanning step terminates and the current scanned pixel is selected,” as claimed.

Claims 14-19 and 66 are dependent from claim 12 and are allowable for the same reasons.

6. Independent claims 35, 55, and 64 have been amended to incorporate features of previous claim 36 that are not taught or suggested by the prior art. That is, neither Ikonomakis nor any of the other cited prior art discloses or suggests that the distributing includes the sub-steps of “dividing,” “allocating,” and “storing,” as claimed.

Claims 37-45 are dependent from claim 35 and are allowable for the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Colin M. LaRose whose telephone number is (571) 272-7423. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au, can be reached on (571) 272-7414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature or

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relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2600

Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CML
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21 July 2005

JINGGE WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

